

11-12-1991

## University of Maine at Orono Franco Series Letter with Attachments

Barry H. Rodrigue

*Franco-American Centre, University of Maine at Orono*

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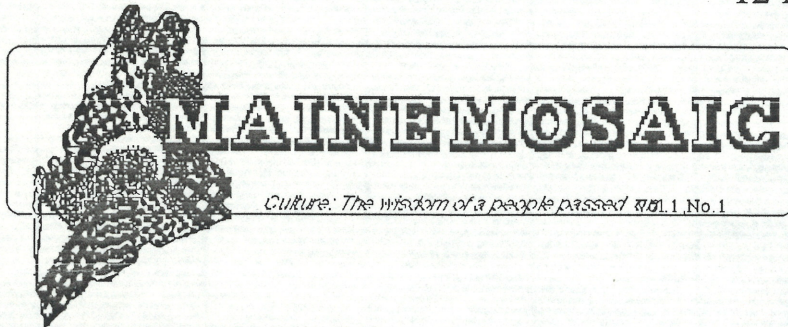


# UNIVERSITÉ DU MAINE à Orono

CENTRE FRANCO-AMÉRICAIN  
FAROG et Le F.A.R.O.G. FORUM  
Téléphone: (207) 581-FROG

Maison Franco-Américaine  
126 avenue du Collège  
Orono, ME 04469

12 November 1991



Madeleine Giguère  
22 Germaine Street,  
Lewiston, Maine. 04240.

Dear Madeleine:

I've a couple of reasons for writing you--for my own purposes and for the Franco-American Center here in Orono.

On the weekend of April 11-12 we're having a small gathering to kick off a two or three year series called **Beyond the French and Indian Wars: The Impact of Warfare on the Franco and Native Communities of North America**. This won't be any glorification of the military or war; it is more of a look at the impacts at home. Would this be a subject that you folks in Lewiston would like to become involved in? Instead of writing a lot here, please take a look at the article on the conference in the soon-to-be-out **Forum**. I'll call you when I hear of our next meeting (we've only had a couple of preliminary local meetings so far).

For my part, I'm a graduate student at the University of Maine in Canadian-American history. My thesis is about the shoe-making industry and a Maine born industrialist/inventor who operated in Lynn and Boston named Thomas Gustave Plant (1859-1941). Enclosed is a synopsis about his career. Would you know anything about him or have material about him in your files?

I would be most grateful for your assistance. Please feel free to pass my letter around to anyone who might be able to help. I really look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Barry H. Rodrigue





## Lewiston Franco-Americans and World War II

Outline for remarks by Madeleine Giguere on a panel at Beyond the French and Indian Wars on Indian Island, April 12, 1992.

### I. Two avenues of impact of WWII: Migration and Social Change

#### A. Migration

##### 1. Left community for military service

English 24 hours a day

French names mispronounced

Laughed at for their accents in English

Did not want this to happen to their children --did not teach or expose children to French language

-- Accelerated Assimilation of those who returned.

-- Many did not come back to Franco-American towns

##### 2. Left Community for defense jobs

So. Portland shipyards- jobs and gas

Connecticut- jobs and wages

California- jobs, wages, and lifestyle

e.g.-fall of '42 or '43, sharp drop in seventh graders in Lewiston school system. In system year before.

--Accelerated assimilation while away from Fr. towns

--Many did not come back to Franco-American areas.

#### B. Social Change in Franco-American Lewiston

##### 3. Fr-Am Activities down but Church bigger than ever

e.g.- No large amateur production in Lewiston during war years.

Big Festival of La Bonne Chanson in 1940, not repeated until 1946

--Commitment not enhanced

--Future leaders not identified and trained.

##### 4. Energy of Fr-Am taken up by community and patriotic activities

Mother (Patronesses) Lewiston Civilian Defense, Androscoggin County Civilian Defense

Father PTA, Board of Education, Draft Board, Medical Examiner in early draft

I'm involved in High School Activities but also working in initial rationing., on a later draft registration.

Ethnic -Church, JEC, Le voyage de M. Perrichon.

##### 5. War-- Prosperity--social mobility--assimilation

### II Conclusion WWII=Great Engine of Social Change

Broke Down the isolation of the Franco-Americans-- Assimilation up.

Perhaps the event of greatest importance to FA since their arrival.

Not like WWI

# **Beyond the French and Indian Wars: The Impact of Wartime on the Franco American and Native American Communities**

Presented by SASFA — La Société pour l'Avancement Savante des Franco Américains  
A University of Maine Franco American Centre Conference



**SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1992**  
**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS HALL**  
**OLD TOWN**  
**THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR**

- AM**
- 8:00** • Opening Ceremonies. Social time with coffee and refreshments. Greeting by Clement Shina, Post Commander.
- 8:15** • Presentation by Yvon Labbé, Director of the Franco American Center, and Rhea Côté Robbins, Editor of *Le Forum*, about the concept of *Beyond the French and Indian Wars*. Introduction of guest speakers.
- 8:30** • Opening address by Governor James Sappier of the Penobscot Nation and Séverin Béliveau, leading Franco American activist. The presentation will be a personal overview about the Native American and Franco American communities, their identities, and the effects of war and politics.

## **THE CIVIL WAR**

- 9:45** • Presentation by Devlin Whelan, the University of Maine, and Glen Starbird of the Penobscot Nation about the role of Franco Americans and Native Americans in the Civil War.
- 11:00** • **Riverside Cemetery, Bennoch Road, Orono.** Placement of the gravestone of Georges DesRochers (a Québec Métis soldier of the Civil War). Presentation by his great-great grand nephew, Barry H. Rodrigue. Civil War Honor Guard, 20th Maine Volunteer Infantry. "Un Canadien Errant" sung by Lilianne Labbé. Prayer by Rev. James Michaud, St. Ann's Chapel, Indian Island.
- 11:30** • **VFW Hall, Old Town.** Potluck/casserole lunch. A reading from the novel *Un Revenant*, by Rémi Tremblay, a French Canadian Civil War veteran. Presentation about Calixa Lavalée, Civil War veteran and writer of "O, Canada," sung by Rita Chesley. Reading of World War I family letters and letters to boys in the trenches (family letters donated by Marie and John Brewer). Presentation by Gary Upham and Kelly Cookson, Indian Island School, Penobscot Nation. Music presented by Lilianne Labbé and Don Hinkley, and Paul Gutman.

## **THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR**

- PM**
- 1:30** • Introduction and presentation by Paulina McDougall, graduate student in the History Department of the University of Maine, and Jacques Ferland, professor of Canadian American history at the University of Maine. Presentation will be about Penobscot and French Canadian involvement in the Revolutionary War.

- 2:30** • Traditional musicians Martha Pellerin and Dana Whittle, from Middlesex, Vermont. End of first day's presentations and adjournment to the First Annual Native American Awareness Week activities, which begin at 3:00 PM in Wells Commons, University of Maine.



**SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 1992**  
**PENOBSCOT NATION COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**INDIAN ISLAND**  
**WORLD WAR II**

- AM**
- 8:00** • Coffee and social gathering.
- 8:15** • Presentation by Matthew LaFlamme--Vichy or DeGaulle? the Franco-American Dilemma in World War II.
- 8:45** • Presentation by Eunice Baumann, professor of anthropology (Penobscot Nation) and Ethelle Lord Ames, counselor (Franco American Center): *Native American and Franco American Spirituality and Resolution of Conflict*.
- 10:00** • Presentation by Maureen Tully Lopez, RN, MS—*Reflections on an Era—Nurses of the 10th Evacuation Unit in New Guinea During World War II*. Discussion with Elise Pooler Lambert, Margaret Soule Tully and Doris Wilms-Hale about the experiences of women nurses in the 10th Evacuation Unit during World War II, the Viet Nam era, and the Gulf War crisis.
- Noon** • Native American and Franco American lunch (\$6.00). Video presentation: *Reflections of the 10th Evacuation Nurses in World War II*. Reading of World War I letters. Music by Lilianne Labbé and Don Hinkley, Paul Gutman.
- PM**
- 1:00** • Opening address by Eugene Paradis, Old Town, and Hilda Mitchell Gray, Penobscot Nation. Panel discussion about the impact of World War II on the Franco American and Native American communities before, during, and after the war. Panelists will include Francis Loring, Penobscot Nation (U.S. Marine Corps, Past Commander VFW-Old Town); Madeleine Giguère, Lewiston; P. Paré, Rochester, N.H.; Maurice Violette, Augusta (U.S. Navy); Walter Nadeau, Old Town (U.S. Air Force); Peg P. Redman and Annie M. McCarthy, Bangor (U.S. Army /Women are Veterans Too.)
- 3:00** • Closing remarks by President Frederick Hutchinson of the University of Maine and Governor James Sappier of the Penobscot Nation.
- 3:15** • End of presentations and music by Lilianne Labbé and Don Hinkley. Adjournment to the First Annual Native American Awareness Week Activities, which begin at 3:00 PM in Wells Commons, University of Maine.

For more details, please call Barry Rodrigue, Yvon Labbé, or Rhea Côté Robbins at the Franco American Center:  
(207)-581-3775

Funded by the UM President's Office, the Penobscot Nation, the VFW-Old Town, the American Legion-Orono, and the UM Association of Graduate Students.

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